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STAR OF MYSORE

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Vol. 43 No. 62 Pages: 6 Rs. 2.00
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MYSURU Saturday 25th April 2020
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REDUCE YOUR RISK OF
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INFECTION
Clean hands with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub
Cover nose and mouth when coughing with tissue or flexed elbow
Avoid close contact with anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms
SOUTHERN STAR

KSRTC steers Mysuru to safety

Launches Mobile Fever Clinic; Joins frontline warriors in battle against Coronavirus

Mysuru, Apr. 25 (RK&BNR)- If you are thinking that the whole of public transportation system, including KSRTC and Railways, has been gathering dust ever since the lockdown was announced, spare a thought. They have found innovative ways and means to keep their wheels running and at the same time reaching out to people as frontline warriors battling Coronavirus.

First, the Indian Railways converted thousands of coaches into Isolation Wards to treat COVID-19 patients, then the KSRTC (Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation) converted its old buses that were slated to be scrapped into *'Sarige Sanjeevini'* mobile disinfectant vehicles.

Once again, the KSRTC has come forward to add a new weapon to fight the pandemic in the form of 'Mobile Fever Clinic.' This innovative idea has been inspired by the 10 Fever Clinics set up by the Mysuru District Administration across Mysuru city and one in Nanjangud to screen patients with flu, cold and those having breathing difficulties.

While people have to come to the Fever Clinic to check themselves up, the KSRTC's Mobile Fever Clinic will go to the doorsteps of the people, especially in rural areas who are ill and screen them. The facility was launched by Mysuru Deputy Commissioner Abhiram G. Sankar at the DC Office this morning.

(See KSRTC on page 6)

Probe begins

to trace source of Nanjangud cluster case

Vijay Bhaskar Harsha Gupta

Mysuru, Apr. 25 (BCT)- Following a directive from the State Government, senior IAS Officer Harsha Gupta, who was earlier appointed as Nodal Officer, COVID-19 Control Operations, Mysuru district, has begun an investigation into the mysterious Coronavirus spread from Nanjangud-based Jubilant Generics, a drug-making company.

The State Government late last evening ordered a probe to ascertain reasons for the spread of COVID-19 in Mysuru district and it held the management of Jubilant Generics responsible for the spread of the positive cases.

Chief Secretary T.M. Vijay Bhaskar asked Harsha Gupta to conduct the probe to find out the sources and reasons for the spread of virus and also investigate the responsibility of the factory in the spread of the virus. Harsha Gupta has been asked to submit a report in a week.

"Despite stringent measures, the main reason for Mysuru district to emerge as a hotspot (for COVID-19) is the Jubilant Generics plant in Nanjangud," Vijay Bhaskar said in his order.

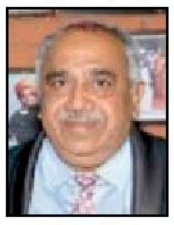
Speaking to reporters in city this morning, Mysuru Deputy Commissioner Abhiram G. Sankar said that the Chief Secretary's order came last evening and Harsha Gupta has already begun his probe by collecting information from the District Administration, Police and Health Department.

Health Department sources told *Star of Mysore* that the inquiry will investigate the source of the infection in Nanjangud town and reasons for becoming a pandemic affecting the plant's employees, their family members and relatives. Mysuru Superintendent of Police (SP) C.B. Ryshyanth, his deputy and three Inspectors will assist Harsha Gupta in tracing the root cause of the virus spread, sources added.

Out of the cumulative 88 COVID-19 cases reported in Mysuru district, 73 are linked to Jubilant Generics. On Mar. 26, a 35-year-old patient (P52), an employee of Jubilant Generics, tested positive for COVID-19. The first case reported from Nanjangud, P52 had no travel or contact history.

(See PROBE on page 6)

UoM VC-headed panel to decide on vacations, academic calendar



Prof. Hemantha Kumar

Mysuru, Apr. 25 (RK&BCT)- Prof. G. Hemantha Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, University of Mysore (UoM), will submit a recommendation report to the State Government on preparing a uniform calendar of events, need to retain or forgo vacations, conducting examinations and other activities in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic and the resultant lockdown that has led to disruption of academic activities in Colleges and Universities.

Prof. Hemantha Kumar has been appointed by the Government as the Head of a Committee for State Universities. There will be separate Committees for Visvesvaraya Technological University, Karnataka State Open University, Private Universities and Department of Technical Education to prepare a uniform calendar of events to be followed once students come back to the campuses. The Committee has to submit the report by Apr. 28.

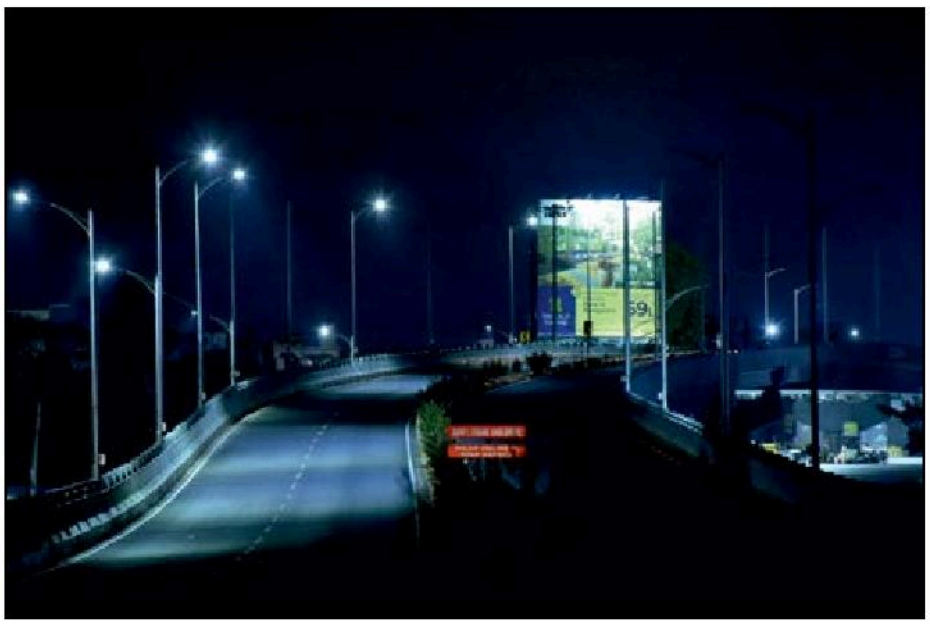
The Committee has been constituted in the wake of the Karnataka State Higher Education Council (KSHEC) recommending 'zero vacations' for the 2020-21 academic year as Universities want to make up for time lost due to the Coronavirus lockdown. The KSHEC report has been sent to the Higher Education Department on the suggestion from Vice-Chancellors of all State-run Universities.

Regular vacations for under-graduate and post-graduate courses were scheduled for August and September after the semester examinations. But since Universities and Colleges are closed due to the lockdown, VCs want to cancel vacations and utilise the time for academic activities.

(See PANEL on page 6)

STAR PUNCH By Satish Acharya

Glimpses of Hinkal Flyover...



Traffic seldom sleeps on the busy Hunsur Road on a normal day. Thanks to nationwide lockdown since March 25, Mysuru's one and only Flyover built at Hinkal Ring Road Junction on Mysuru-Madikeri Highway to ease traffic congestion wears a deserted. The day and night glimpses of the Flyover was captured by SOM photographer M.N. Lakshminarayana Yadav.

Coronavirus steals scent of Mangoes

- Growers bear the brunt of lockdown
- Prices plummet to new low due to lack of demand

Mysuru, Apr. 25 (PM&BCT)- Summer is soaring and the 'King of Fruits' has not yet occupied its throne in Mysuru, thanks to COVID-19 outbreak. Due to the pandemic and the ongoing lockdown, the mangoes are not getting an enthusiastic welcome that it gets every year in Namma Mysuru. While almost everyone is craving to sink in their teeth in the luscious, tasty delight, sourcing them has become a huge problem due to lockdown and restricted movement of consignments.

This is that time of the year when mangoes pile up in makeshift shops, carts, street corners and stalls at various junctions and prominent places in city where the juicy, golden fruits jostle for space with watermelons, pomegranates and apples. But this year, Coronavirus pandemic has dampened the sale of mangoes.

Mangoes are grown across Mysuru Taluk like Yelwal, Hullahalli, K.R. Nagar, H.D. Kote, Nanjangud, Periyapatna and Hunsur and in places near Mysuru like Nagawala, Bommenahalli, Seigalli, Vasaramanahalli, Kumarahalli, Ratnahalli, Benkipura and surrounding areas.

The varieties they grow are Badami, Rasapuri, Malagova, Apoos, Mundappa and Thotapuri. Plus, every year, there is a flood of other varieties like Alphonso, Baganapalli, Kesari, Himapasha, Sakregulla, Kesari and Dusseri from places like Chittoor, Ahmedabad & Krishnagiri.

Though a few varieties have landed in the APMC Market, there are no buyers. Mehboob Shariff, President, APMC Association, who is popularly known as Patthar Babu, told 'Star of Mysore' that mangoes have started trickling in since the last six days and many transporters are facing difficulties in transporting the fruit from one place to another due to lockdown.

Growers are scared and in some places, mango contractors who usually take many mango orchards in villages into contract are denied entry into villages due to the virus spread. "Nanjangud is out of question because the entire taluk has been quarantined. But even in other places, contractors are denied entry. At some villages, fruits have ripened on the tree tops but still contractors are not being allowed inside," he said.

Prices have crashed as the fruits that used to cost Rs. 100 to Rs. 120 per kg are being traded at Rs. 30 to Rs. 60 as there is no demand. "Despite arrangements being made at the APMC Yard by the District Administration and the Police, sellers and buyers are scared to trade. This year, there is less crop but still there is no demand," Mehboob Shariff said.

From farmers to flat scheme

The Karnataka State Mango Development and Marketing Corporation (KSMDMC) has tied up with the India Post to deliver the fruit within a week of receiving the order.

As per plans, growers will be given a separate login on the website to check orders and what category of mangoes is in demand. They will then have to deliver the mangoes to the Central Post Office in Bengaluru. Since fruits come under essential goods, farmers are allowed to commute and transport their goods to markets.

However, this facility is limited only to Bengaluru and will not be extended to Mysuru. Postal Department authorities told *Star of Mysore* that there are many logistical issues to supply mangoes to the doorsteps. "We need to get the fruits from Bengaluru Central Post Office and then deliver them to houses. As mangoes are perishable items, it will be a tough task," officers said.

Three Blood Sample and Throat Swab Testing Centres in Mysuru City

Mysuru, Apr.25 (RK&DM)- There are three Blood Sample and Throat Swab Testing Centres in Mysuru city to handle COVID-19 suspect cases and at the same time, 10 Fever Clinics have been established across the city where symptoms such as fever, cough, sore throat or breathlessness are tested by designated doctors, informed MCC Commissioner Gurudatta Hegde.

At a COVID-19 review meeting at D. Devaraj Urs Hall at the ZP Office in city on Thursday, the Commissioner said that the three centres were at K.R.Hospital, B.M.Hospital on Hunsur Road which the District Administration has taken control of and at the designated COVID-19 Hospital on KRS Road.

The meeting was chaired by District Minister S.T. Somashekar.

In a power-point presentation, Hegde informed the meeting about the measures the MCC has taken to oversee COVID-19 Containment Zones or Red Zones, Quarantine Centres, Isolation Wards and the designated COVID-19 Hospital. He said that the MCC was constantly overseeing food supplies to Santwana Kendras and other Shelter Homes and ensuring regular health check-up of all those housed in these centres. The MCC is also monitoring the maintenance of social distancing and other lockdown regulations at all the designated market places, he added.

Solid waste disposal: During the course of the meeting, MLA G.T. Devegowda alleged that animal waste and construction debris were being dumped along the Ring Road near Hinkal which posed serious health hazard to nearby residents. Minister Somashekar directed the MCC officials to take immediate measures to clear the waste even as Commissioner Gurudatta Hegde said that a Detailed Project Report (DPR) was being prepared to setup dumping sites at Koppaluru and Rayanakere on the outskirts of the city as a long-lasting solution for solid waste disposal.

Indira Canteens: Alleging that the food suppliers to Indira Canteens were raising bogus bills by increasing the number of beneficiaries, Ramdas said. To this, the Minister directed the officials to take serious note of the charges and initiate action if the numbers are found to be artificially boosted. The MLAs present at the meeting complimented the MCC's efforts and campaigns in combating the epidemic. They wanted the civic body to fog and sanitise all minor roads and by-lanes to make the residents feel safer.

MUDA Commissioner P.S. Kantharaj said that MUDA was managing the Containment Zone at Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Nagar which is under its control and said that the Authority too has been engaged in fogging all areas coming under its jurisdiction.

DC Abhiram G. Sankar, MCC Additional Commissioners Shivanandamurthy and N.M. Shashikumar, Health Officers Dr. Jayanth and Dr. D.G. Nagaraj and other officials were present.

VOICE OF THE READER

Kudos to Railways'
food security initiative

Sir,

The recent move by Railways to ensure food security to the nation during pandemic crisis by running freight trains is highly appreciated. The move comes at a time when the entire nation is under lockdown forcing closure of road transport. The Railways initiative through time-tabled parcel express trains has ensured timely supply of food and essentials and thus helped to achieve a balanced supply chain across the nation.

Further the supply chain model as followed currently by the Railways during such a crisis should otherwise be adopted on regular basis too. Supplying essentials, medicines and food to remotest corners of the nation connected through rail network contributes to an efficient distribution channel. The same also contributes to reduced carbon footprint as otherwise emitted through fuel consumption by road transport.

The Railways should now focus to enhance their logistics supply chain on a robust scale and implement the same on its network on a regular basis through freight services while benefiting the common citizens.

— **Varun Dambal**
Bengaluru
23.4.2020

Akshaya Tritiya tomorrow

Avail special online offer
at 'A. Shankara Chetty & Sons'

Mysuru, Apr.25-Akshaya Tritiya has always been an auspicious day to buy gold as it is the most auspicious time of the year. It promises prosperity and the magic of new beginnings.

Tough times don't last, but tough people do. While the whole world has come to a standstill due to the pandemic, most people are turning to gold as a safe investment. As you stay home and stay safe, this Akshaya Tritiya (Apr.26) buy gold from the comfort of your homes. Due to loads of enquiries from its patrons, A. Shankara Chetty & Sons, though closed, is offering an opportunity to invest in gold with special offers.

For every one gram of gold jewellery purchase, get two grams of silver free. Book your favourite gold jewellery, gold coins or buy Gold Ownership Certificate in different denominations from specially curated Akshaya Tritiya e-catalogue @ http://akshayatritiya.ipopi.in/asc/

Customers can block gold purchase at today's price and take delivery when store opens or get it delivered at your doorstep post-lockdown. Owing to wellness and safety only online payments will be accepted. Gold rate will be frozen and customers get 100 percent rate protection for purchase.

For more details contact Mob: 88808-66661 or 93412-34504.

AT&S lends helping hand in fight against COVID-19 in Karnataka

- Delivers PCBs on ventilator manufacturing programme
- Contributes Rs. 20 lakh to CM's Relief Fund

Nanjangud, Apr. 25- AT & S India, a wholly owned subsidiary of AT & S AG, the global market leader for high-end Printed Circuit Boards (PCBs) and one of the world's leading manufacturers of Inter Connect substrates, has started the delivery of high end 8-layer Printed Circuit Boards as part of National COVID-19 Technology Response Team with the Mysuru ESDM members to make ventilators for the Karnataka State requirement on top priority and to be also ready to serve any other national requirements at the time of crisis.

AT & S India has already received orders for catering to PCB requirement for 15 thousand ventilator units out of the total projected demand of one lakh units.

AT & S India has extended a helping hand in fight against COVID-19 in Karnataka on multiple fronts. The company contributed Rs. 20 lakh to the Karnataka Chief Minister Relief Fund towards the State's fight against the Corona pandemic.

Sunil Banwari, MD & COO, AT & S India, said: "AT & S India is proud to join hands with the State of Karnataka and India in the fight against COVID-19 pandemic. We have already started delivery on the required high end 8-layer PCBs for emergency manufacturing programme of ventilators. AT & S manufactured PCBs will facilitate life-critical ventilators to offer necessary interface between the health professionals and the machine that pumps oxygen, enabling COVID-19 patients to breathe."

AT&S PCB manufacturing unit in Nanjangud.

AT&S India Management — Sunil Banwari, MD & COO, R.S. Simha, MD & CFO and Nanda Kishore, Head - HR — handing over the cheque to Medical Education Minister Dr. K. Sudhakar, Cooperation and Mysuru District in-Charge Minister S.T. Somashekar and Nanjangud MLA Harshavardhan.

"PCBs manufactured by AT&S have been the magic force behind sophisticated pacemakers, hearing aid, prostheses, implantable drug delivery systems, and may more technological wonders, amongst others," he added.

AT&S committed itself for this emergency PCB manufacturing programme for ventilators after taking all required safety measures and obtaining all necessary permissions from the State and District Administration for running operations.

R.S. Simha, MD & CFO, AT & S India, said: "We regularly undertake programmes that have touched the lives of thousands of people in a positive way and our current humble contribution to Karnataka Chief Minister's Relief Fund is step forward in same direction."

Purchase gold online
from Joyalukkas also

Mysuru, Apr. 25- Tomorrow (Apr.26) is Akshay Tritiya, a day considered to be very auspicious. Joyalukkas always concentrate on a never fading golden culture and is all set to welcome this Akshay Tritiya falling during the lockdown period.

As all the jewellery showrooms are closed due to lockdown, Joyalukkas, world's favourite jeweller, has made arrangements to enable purchase of gold ornaments online and is launching Akshay Tritiya special collections. The customers can purchase as per their convenience through Joyalukkas website on or before the Akshay Tritiya day. Each Joyalukkas creation exhibits its unique craftsmanship. When you purchase gold ornaments online, you will be eligible for a discount of Rs.50 per gram and will get 20% discount on diamond Value when you buy diamond jewellery online. You will get additional 5% cash back when you make payment for online purchases through SBI credit cards.

Moreover, you can obtain special gift vouchers, e-vouchers, etc. through Joyalukkas website or through online sites like Amazon, woohoo.in, etc. Once the lockdown ends and the showrooms reopen, you can make purchase of ornaments of your choice using these vouchers.

Avail discount of Rs.50 per gram on gold and 20% on diamond value

All the commodity markets are in a recession mode on account of COVID pandemic. But the glitter of gold has not affected. Gold is a safe investment which can be encashed at any time. That is the plus point of gold.

Along with this, you can make use of the advance booking facility to escape from gold price hike. World's favourite jeweller gives an assurance that if the gold price on the day of your purchase is higher than that of the booking day, then you can purchase at the booked rate and if it is lower on the day of purchase, you can make the purchase at the prevailing rate.

Malabar donates grocery kits

On behalf of Malabar Gold and Diamond, Mysuru, its staff Gireesh and Rehman handed over 250 groceries kit to Mysuru Mayor Tasneem as a donation to Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) which is serving the needy people during the COVID-19 lockdown.

Abracadabra... Abracadabra...

By K.B. Ganapathy

Remembering Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj – 17

Domestic difficulties in his last days

[Continued from Apr. 22]

When everything looked good for Shivaji and his expanded empire which included an important Fort Gingee, deep inside Tamil country ruled by Shivaji's second son Rajaram, his peace was soon clouded by the domestic difficulties.

Here, it must be mentioned that the last years of Shivaji's life was marked by his role as a defender of Bijapur Sultanate. The Sultan was a minor and queen mother was disliked not only by her son but also by the courtiers because of her unbecoming conduct as the queen. She went on a cruise in the Arabian sea with Dutch sailors discovering a sudden taste for romance in her old age. A quarrel took place when the promise made to give a Bijapur Princess to one of Aurangazeb's sons was broken leading to a war between Bijapur and Mughals. Dilir Khan, the Mughal General, attacked Bijapur territory and kept the city under siege.

The people of Bijapur became desperate. At last the queen mother of Bijapur approached Shivaji for help. Shivaji agreed to help under conditions conducive for his empire and sent two of his Generals to challenge Dilir Khan. The Mughal army was routed and Bijapur became a vassal State like Golkonda earlier. Historian Dennis Kincaid writes the priests of Bijapur offered prayers in the shrine of the religions bowing before the casket for Shivaji's safety and prosperity. And as Shivaji rode on his horse into the Palace courtyard, he must have thought of the day, 42 years ago, when his father introduced him to the very Palace and the then Sultan. He must have remembered the occasion when he refused to prostate before the Sultan in a Persian style, instead saluting him in the Maratha style which was considered defiance of the Durbar protocol. As a result, as mentioned earlier, Shivaji's father Shahaji who was a noble in Sultan's court had to send Shivaji and his mother to their Jahagir on the Mughal border.

Surprisingly, despite the great victory at Bijapur, Shivaji somehow looked sad and thoughtful. He gave some excuses and immediately left Bijapur to Raigad. The historian writes that Shivaji must have become contemplative wondering at this strange reversal of fate — A neglected child becomes a rebel, now a life-long enemy like Bijapur welcoming him with servile adulation. **Probably, these events must have made Shivaji more than ever conscious of the impermanence of everything, the change, the ending.**

When Shivaji returned to his capital, his family and friends noticed a change in his demeanour and interaction with them. He appeared talking rather abnormally. He was suffering from increasing melancholy day by day so much so he wrote a letter to spiritual Guru Ramdas saying, "It would be good if God called me to his feet. I cannot bear being separated from my mother any longer." It was a clear foreboding of his approaching death. There was a swelling on his knee which made walking very painful. Therefore, he was bed-ridden.

And soon he fell into a high fever. **By April 3, 1680, he was in his death-bed.** He asked those around him not to weep because their religion promised immortality. After one Brahman, who is known as the scapegoat for the purpose, absolved Shivaji and freed him from the burden of all his sins, except of adultery and murder, as per Hindu rituals, **Shivaji breathed his last.** The famous Bhavani Sword of Shivaji was taken from him and placed in the temple of the mother Goddess at Satara in Maharashtra where people say it could be seen even today.

When the news reached Delhi, Aurangzeb's face lit up with joy. And yet spontaneously, he paid him a tribute in the following words as recorded by Historian Orme. Aurangzeb said, "Shivaji was a great captain and the only one who had the magnanimity to raise a new Kingdom. My armies were employed against him for 19 years. Nevertheless his territories have always been increasing."

In contrast, a Mughal Historian Khafi Khan had expressed happiness exclaiming "the infidel has gone to hell."

Interestingly, the English merchants in Surat and Bombay took a long time to be convinced that Shivaji could really be dead. Even eight months after his death, the English in Bombay were writing 'Shivaji had died' so often that some had begun thinking him to be immortal!

While describing in detail the funeral of Shivaji, the author writes, "under the tongue that had so often charmed, encouraged and inspired, they had placed a single emerald." It was the month of April, a very hot summer, his body was carried in a great palanquin of State as per Hindu ritual and laid on the pyre with the head towards the north. It was already evening and the stars were coming out. Shivaji was aged 50 when he died. Some say he was 52.

[Concluded]

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Illegal fishing activity busted at Cauvery Wildlife Division

15 coracles, 30 fishing nets, other fishing equipment seized

Chamarajanagar, Apr. 25 (KS)- While the entire nation is under lockdown to prevent the spread of COVID-19, there seems to be no lockdown for illegal fishing activity in Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary and Male Mahadeshwara Wildlife Division.

Following a tip off about illegal fishing activities after dark in Cauvery River, the Kollegal Buffer Zone staff of Cauvery Wildlife Division and Male Mahadeshwara Wildlife Division conducted an operation on Apr. 23 and have seized fishing equipment and coracles.

Over 80 forest staff, who conducted the search operation from 7 am to 4 pm, from Doddamaakalli to Muthathi, covering a distance of 10 kilometres, found 15 coracles, 30 fishing nets, 20 kg incense and other fishing equipment and seized them. Though not a single person involved in the illegal activity was found at the spot, the Forest staff found rice, cooking oil, plastic covers, bags, plates and vegetables at the spot and seized them. It is learnt that the fishermen used to stay inside the forest area during nights, illegally fish and take the catch to Shilvepura in the early morning and sell the fish to fish traders of Sathegala (Hand Post).

On the Karnataka side, the forest along the river has been declared as a Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary, fishing is a punishable offence and human activity has been restricted. However, on the Tamil Nadu side, fishing licenses are being given by the Fisheries Department despite strong objections by the Forest Department.

It may be mentioned here that on Apr. 21, a poacher, who was earlier working in Kerala had returned to his native place following lockdown and was involved in poaching of wild animals. A lot of labourers, who were working in various places, have returned to their native places due to lockdown and they are now indulging in poaching, illegal fishing and even setting fire in forest area. This has become a headache to the Forest Dept. Forest staff of Kothanur, Halagur, Sangam and Hanur Zones, took part in the seizing operation, according to a press release from Dr. S. Ramesh, Deputy Conservator of Forests, Cauvery Wildlife Division, Kollegal.

Two forest personnel drown in Kabini backwaters

They were on a coracle to catch illegal fishermen

Mysuru, Apr. 25 (MTY&KS)- Two Forest personnel, who were on illegal fishing trail drowned when the coracle capsised in Kabini backwaters at Gundre Forest Range last night.

The deceased are Mahesh (30), a Forest Watcher and Shivakumar (30), a Wireless Operator working as a daily wager. While the body of Mahesh was fished out in the early hours of today, search is on to trace the body of Shivakumar.

Details: Yesterday at about 11.30 pm, the Forest Department personnel received information that fishermen had cast their nets in Kabini backwaters in Gundre Range for illegal fishing. Soon eight Forest personnel reached the backwaters and Mahesh and Shivakumar, along with Guard Mahadev and Watcher Bomma boarded a coracle and went on the hunt for illegal fishermen while the other four personnel began to walk along the banks of the backwaters.

When they paddled their coracle to a distance, the fishermen suddenly flashed the torchlight on the Forest personnel's face and Bomma, reportedly fired a shot in the air to warn the fishermen. Due to the force in which the fire was opened and the resultant upheaval, the personnel in the coracle lost their balance and fell into the backwaters.

As soon as they fell into the waters, Shivakumar and Mahesh reportedly got entangled into the fishing net cast in the backwaters and drowned while Bomma and Mahadev swam back to safety. Meanwhile, the fishermen who were caught in their illegal act, ran away. While deceased Shivakumar is a resident of Bramhagiri Tribal Hamlet in Hediyala Range and a temporary employee, Mahesh was a permanent employee, who had secured the job on compensation grounds following the death of his father who was in service.

No higher officials accompanied the staff: Meanwhile, villagers alleged that only the ground staff went behind the fishermen and were not accompanied by higher officials. They said that a Deputy Range Forest Officer (DRFO) and Range Forest Officer (RFO) should have accompanied the staff during such operations and alleged that the higher officials were playing with the lives of their subordinates. The villagers demanded compensation to the family of the deceased.

The Forest personnel seized fishing nets and higher officials have suspected that the fishermen may have entered the backwaters through Nagarahole. Beechanahalli Police, along with Dy.SP Sundar Raj, Bandipur Tiger Reserve Director T. Balachandra and others visited the spot. The officials are supervising the search operation to trace the body of Shivakumar. Beechanahalli Police have registered a case.

More testing can alone give real picture: DC

Mysuru, Apr. 25 (RK&BNR)- Testing is one of the major requirements to keep COVID-19 pandemic under check and Mysuru tops the list in number of testing done among the 20 districts in Karnataka that have reported COVID-19 positive cases.

Speaking at the launch of KSRTC's Mobile Fever Clinic in city this morning, Mysuru Deputy Commissioner Abhiram G. Sankar said that since the last two days there have been no positive cases in Mysuru and P111 has been discharged late yesterday and a few more patients are expected to be discharged today.

"As per the Government direction, primary contacts of positive cases are to be tested immediately and after 12 days; secondary contacts who are at less risk must be tested after 12 days of home quarantine," said the DC adding that secondary contacts of positive cases are being tested today. Also, 4-5 Jubilant Generics employees whose samples were rejected earlier will be retested apart from samples of primary and secondary contacts of Hebya case which will be tested today.

On the question that has Coronavirus been controlled in Mysuru, the DC said: "As of now, we can consider that it is under control. Along with the workers who have been tested for COVID-19, their family members too had come for testing. So more number of tests are conducted every day. Apart from that we are going for random testing including 20 to 40 Influenza-Like Illness (ILI), and **Severe Acute Respiratory Illness (SARI)** cases from K.R. Hospital and other Hospitals. So far we have tested 300 SARI cases and only two of them turned positive for COVID-19. In containment areas, we are making 100 percent testing for fever cases." In Mysuru, 970 people are tested per 10 lakh which is highest in the State and more testing is good to know the real status of COVID-19 spread, he added.

KSRTC steers Mysuru to safety

(Continued from page 1)

Speaking at the launch, the DC said, "KSRTC, Mysuru Urban and Rural Division Divisional Controllers and their teams took this initiative to modify a bus into Fever Clinic and have completed the job in just two-three days. A couple of days back NWKSRTC had launched similar vehicle at Hubballi, however for KSRTC Mysuru, this is the first-of-its-kind."

Confirming that a team of doctors have checked the facility and after the standards were met, the Mobile Fever Clinic is being launched, Abhiram Sankar said that the main aim of this is to serve rural and remote areas where there is no or limited access to healthcare facilities.

"People in city, have Primary Health Centres and if there is any emergency, they can reach out to COVID Hospital or K.R. Hospital as there is good connectivity. At the same time, people in Containment Zones, villages like Mosambayyanahalli, Someshwarapura and Hebya where there are primary and secondary contacts of positive cases, should not be inconvenienced and this facility is aimed at reaching such places," he added.

On the functioning of Mobile Fever Clinic, Abhiram Sankar said, "Though it is a Fever Clinic, apart from fever symptoms, doctors appointed for the purpose are those who have handled PHCs hence they can also handle other issues like diabetes and provide first-aid services if people approach."

Pointing out that the Mobile Clinic has no swab collection facility he explained, "The facility has a screening area where a staff nurse screens, then the doctor sees the patient and if necessary, reference will be given to take swab. Though the doctor and the nurse here will be equipped with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), there is no swab collection facility. If need be, they will be sent to Nanjangud Fever Clinic or COVID Hospital in Mysuru for swab collection."

R. Ashok Kumar, Divisional Controller, KSRTC Rural Division, said that the DC had asked them if it was possible to provide such a mobile unit and at the same time, KSRTC MD Shivayogi C. Kalasad had the same thought and had written to us. Hence, it materialised and there is also a proposal to provide another such unit."

Noting that after District Health Officer (DHO) Dr. R. Venkatesh and team certified the mobile unit before it was launched, Ashok Kumar said, "KSRTC has provided the bus with driver and a sanitising machine and the chemicals required for disinfection will be provided by DHO. The vehicle will be handed over to the DHO and will be sanitised thrice a day while at work. For vehicle servicing, it will be brought to Bannimantap Depot, otherwise will be stationed at DHO Office in Nazarbad itself."

The DC Abhiram G. Sankar, who also checked the facility after the launch, suggested the KSRTC officials to add an extra step to the bus to make it easy for people to climb as in low-floor buses.

Mysore University VC heads panel

(Continued from page 1)

While Prof. Hemantha Kumar is the Committee Chairman, Prof. Ramachandregowda, VC, Rani Chennamma University, Belagavi, Prof. K.R. Venugopal, VC, Bangalore University, Prof. P.S Yadapadithaya, VC, Mangalore University and Prof. Sabiha Bhumigowda, VC, Karnataka State Women's University will be the Members. UoM Registrar Prof. R. Shivappa will be the Member-Secretary.

The Committee will prepare a uniform calendar of events through online meetings in consultations with Vice-Chancellors of Tumkur University, Davanagere University, Kuvempu University, Gulbarga University, Kannada University, Bangalore Central University, Bangalore North University, Sanskrit University, Folklore University, Music University, Krishnadevaraya University, Karnatak University, Special Officer, Maharani Cluster University and Special Officer Mandya Unitary University. The Committee report will be final and applicable to all these Universities.

Speaking to *Star of Mysore* this morning, Prof. Hemantha Kumar has said that he and other Committee Members have already begun consultations with the other VCs. "I am also holding video conferences with other VCs and speaking to different Heads of the Departments and will prepare a report based on the Government directive. I will include my recommendations and send it to the Government by Apr. 28," he said.

Obituary

Upendra Jetty

Mysuru, Apr. 25- Upendra Jetty (82), an ex-serviceman and a resident of Alanahalli in Mysuru, passed away this morning.

He leaves behind his wife, two sons, a daughter and a host of relatives and friends.

Last rites will be performed at the foot of Chamundi Hill here tomorrow morning.

Probe begins to trace source

(Continued from page 1)

Subsequently, many employees of the company and their primary contacts (family members and relatives) tested positive, qualifying it as a cluster case. A consignment from China that landed in the factory was initially suspected to be the source of the infection. The China consignment was active pharmaceutical ingredients used in drugs like Azithromycin Dihydrate and Azithromycin Monohydrate, which are needed to fight COVID-19 disease.

Later, the consignment imported from China tested negative for virus by the State-run National Institute of Virology in Pune. So far, how P52 had contracted the infection has remained a mystery. Even the State Government had sought details of the foreign nationals who visited the factory before Coronavirus cases were reported.

The local residents, led by Nanjangud MLA B. Harshavardhan, have been demanding a thorough probe as they hold the company responsible for the spread of the pandemic. However, only a probe can solve the mystery.

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COVID - 19 UPDATE

MYSURU

Persons observed till date	:	4,762
Persons who have completed 14 days' isolation	:	2,442
Persons isolated in home for 14 days	:	2,265
Persons isolated in hospital active cases	:	55
Total samples tested	:	2,774
Samples found negative	:	2,686
Samples found positive (cumulative)	:	89
Persons cured / discharged	:	34
Death toll so far in Mysore	:	0

MANDYA

Total positive cases in Mandya	:	16
Death toll so far in Mandya	:	0

KARNATAKA & INDIA

Total positive cases in Karnataka	:	500
Persons cured / discharged	:	158
Death toll so far in Karnataka	:	18
Total active cases in India	:	18,668
Persons cured / discharged	:	5,062
Death toll so far in India	:	775

(Note: Some of Mysuru data are as on Apr. 24. Media bulletin of Apr. 25 unavailable)

COVID-19 District Emergency Control Room

The Mysuru District Emergency Control Room for COVID-19 (Coronavirus) is functional 24x7 and has a team of operators and medical professionals who are working in shifts. All related queries will be handled professionally and necessary guidance will be provided to all callers, according to Mysuru DC.

Mysuru Helpline numbers
1077 or 0821-2423800
Karnataka Helpline number: 104
Central Helpline number:
011-23978046
Email: ncov2019@gmail.com

Printed by T.S. Gopinath and published by M. Govinde Gowda on behalf of Academy Newspapers Private Limited at Academy Newspapers Private Limited, 15-C, Industrial 'A' Layout, Bannimantap, Mysuru-570 015. Editor: M. Govinde Gowda. Phone: 2496520/2496521/2496523/ 2496526/2496527/2496528 Fax: 0821-2496525, 2496530. City offices: Visveshwaraya Building, III Floor, K.R. CIRCLE, Mysuru-570 001, Ph: 2431774 and No. 114, D.Devaraj Urs Road, Mysuru-570 001, Ph: 2428695, E-mail address: voice@starofmysore.com, For Advertisements: ad@starofmysore.com, RNI Reg. No. 29894/78.